

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 15, 2005, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-16 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12 and 13 are not rejected and are presumed to contain allowable subject matter.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-11 and 14-16 are rejected over the prior art. All of the prior art rejections are based, at least in part, on European Patent Publication EP 0990565 A1 ("EP 565"). The rejections should be withdrawn because EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1-16.

For example, EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 11 and 16. Specifically, EP 565 does not disclose a seat load measuring apparatus comprising a load sensor including "a sensor-side connector connected to said plurality of strain gauges and adapted to be connected to a cable to carry a signal from the sensor to the control unit" as claimed in claim 1. In addition, EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest or a load sensor "wherein the load sensor includes a connector" as claimed in claim 11. Further, it is clear that EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest a "sensor-side connector configured to be detachably connected to a cable having a corresponding cable-side connector" as claimed in claim 16.

EP 565 discloses a device for detecting seat occupancy and an air bag device for a motor vehicle. As shown in figure 3, EP 565 simply discloses a plurality of weight sensors 21. Each weight sensor is attached to a cable 22 which feeds into a signal converter 23. The signal converter 23 is connected to a connector 25 through a cable. However, EP 565 does not disclose a connector at the sensor 21. For example, EP 565 does not disclose a connector "connected to the sensor adjacent the strain gages" as called for in amended Claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 11 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Each of the claims 2-10 and 14-15 depend from either claims 1 or 11 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained in these dependent claims.

The Examiner also cites U.S. Patent No. 3,949,822 ("English") and U.S. Patent No. 6,669,505 ("Wisniewski"). English and Wisniewski fail to cure the deficiencies of EP 565 and, thus do not preclude the patentability of claims 1-11 and 14-16.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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